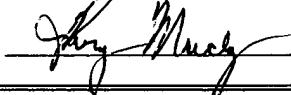


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Harry Macey

In re Application of:

Schaller, et al.

Serial No.: 10/653,027

Filing Date: August 28, 2003

Title: TISSUE CONNECTOR APPARATUS  
AND METHODS

Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: 3731

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.